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Executive Proclamation

State of South Dakota
Office of the Governor

Whereas, Monday, October 12, 2009, the state of South Dakota will celebrate the 20th anniversary of Native American Day; and,

Whereas, South Dakota established Native American Day during the 1989 state legislative session under the direction of the late Governor George S. Mickelson who signed a resolution calling for the second Monday of each October to be Native American Day; and,

Whereas, Since the first celebration in October of 1990, Crazy Horse Memorial in the Black Hills of South Dakota has been a focal point of the state's celebration of its indigenous people; and,

Whereas, South Dakota has nine federally recognized Native American tribes: Cheyenne River Sioux, Crow Creek Sioux, Flandreau Santee Sioux, Lower Brule Sioux, Oglala Sioux, Rosebud Sioux, Sisseton Wahpeton Dakota Nation, Standing Rock Sioux, and Yankton Sioux; and,

Whereas, Crazy Horse was remembered by his people as a fierce warrior and visionary leader who was committed to preserving the traditional Lakota way of life, and the late sculptor Korczak Ziolkowski was inspired to honor the culture, tradition, and living heritage of North American Indians, and thus designed a mountain carving as a tribute to the spirit of Crazy Horse and his people; and,

Whereas, The Native American Day celebration at Crazy Horse includes an educational program, traditional dancers, drum group, Native American artists, storytellers, a traditional buffalo stew feed for all visitors, activities for children, and a blast on the mountain:

Now, Therefore, I, M. Michael Rounds, Governor of the state of South Dakota, do hereby join my fellow South Dakotans in celebrating 20 years of observation of

NATIVE AMERICAN DAY

on October 12, 2009, and paying due respect to the late Governor Mickelson for his foresight and thanking Crazy Horse Memorial for their efforts to promote this important observation in South Dakota.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the state of South Dakota, in Pierre, the Capital City, this Seventh Day of October in the Year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Nine.

M. Michael Rounds, Governor

Attest:

Chris Nelson, Secretary of State

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